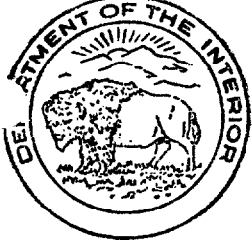


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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release MARCH 17, 1949

CONTINENT'S DUCK INCREASE 12%  
GOOSE INCREASE 32%, F.W.S. ESTIMATES

The "encouraging increase" in the continent's duck and goose populations, reported last week by the Fish and Wildlife Service, was estimated today at 12 percent for ducks and 32 percent for geese.

The Service's annual inventory of North America's migratory waterfowl on the wintering grounds, conducted January 11-14, also revealed a 39 percent increase in the brant population, a 20 percent increase in swan, but a 56 percent decrease in coot. The heavy decline in coots, reported on wintering grounds in the Western United States and below the U. S. border, created a decrease of 1 percent in the total continental waterfowl population.

Of all waterfowl seen in the inventoried areas, ducks comprised about 75 percent of the population; coots, 12 percent; geese, 10 percent; brant, less than 1 percent; and swans, less than 1 percent.

Sixty-one percent of the inventoried waterfowl were seen on wintering grounds within the United States; 27 percent in Central America and Mexico; 4 percent in Canada, and less than 1 percent in the West Indies.

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